

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAIGON 15787 261124Z

21

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----- 036441

O R 260435Z DEC 74
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1367
INFO USDEL JEC PARIS
WHITE HOUSE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 15787

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (EXDIS CAPTION ADDED PER SSO)

DEPT FOR S, EA, S/P AND P

WHITE HOUSE FOR NSC

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, VS, US
SUBJECT: INTERFAITH GROUP CHARGES U.S. WITH FAILURE TO HONOR PARIS
AGREEMENT

REF: A) SAIGON 15729; B) STATE 281471

1. NOTING IN PARA ONE OF REF B THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN UNABLE
SO FAR TO OBTAIN A COPY OF THE INTERFAITH GROUP'S LETTER AND DOES NOT
ANTICIPATE BEING ABLE TO DO SO UNTIL AFTER THE HOLIDAYS, WE ARE SEND-
ING THE FULL TEXT, FROM HALF WAY AROUND THE WORLD, IN THE NEXT FOLLOW
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ING TELEGRAM. IT IS, PERHAPS, A DESECRATION OF ALL THAT THIS DAY
SHOULD MEAN TO THE PEOPLE OF THE WORLD FOR THIS TEXT TO BE RECEIVED I
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TH DEPARTMENT ON CHRISTMAS DAY. HOWEVER, TO BORROW A WORD FROM ITS
TEXT, IT IS SUCH AN "ABOMINATION" THAT WE BELIEVE NO TIME SHOULD BE
LOST IN THE CAREFUL CONSIDERATION OF THE NATURE AND EXTENT OF THE
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PAGE 02 SAIGON 15787 261124Z

DEPARTMENT'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR A RESPONSE.

2. REF A WAS SENT IN THE INCREASINGLY FORLORN HOPE THAT THE DEPARTMENT WOULD COME TO SHARE OUR DEEPLY HELD BELIEF THAT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, AND THEIR REPRESENTATIVES IN CONGRESS, WERE ENTITLED TO THE WHOLE TRUTH ABOUT THE CURRENT REALITIES IN VIETNAM; THAT DISTORTIONS SO GROSS THAT THEY APPROACH THE DIMENSION OF CARICATURE OUGHT NOT TO GO WITHOUT CORRECTIVE ACTION BY THE ONLY AGENCY OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH, THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WHICH IS CAPABLE OF DOING SO; AND THAT FAILURE TO DO SO IS, IN FACT, NOT ONLY AN ABDICATION OF A CLEAR MORAL RESPONSIBILITY TO ACCURATELY INFORM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, BUT ALSO THAT FAILURE TO DO SO BECOMES A POSITIVE, ALBEIT TACIT, CONTRIBUTION TO A CLEVERLY ORCHESTRATED CAMPAIGN TO DECEIVE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, A CAMPAIGN OF WHICH THIS "PASTORAL LETTER" IS ONLY A PART.

3. WE FULLY SHARE THE DEPARTMENT'S EVIDENT DISTASTE TO BECOME "SOILED" BY THE ATTACKS WHICH INEVITABLY WILL BE MADE ON ANYONE WHO DARES TO OBSERVE THAT THE INTERFAITH GROUPS STATEMENT IS A TISSUE OF LIES FROM BEGINNING TO END AND WHO POINTS OUT ITS OBVIOUS CONNECTION WITH THE VISIT TO HANOI IN NOVEMBER BY DON LUCE, BISHOP GUMBLETON, ET AL, AND THAT ITS CLEAR AND OBVIOUS DESIGN IS TO MASSIVELY INTERVENE ON BEHALF OF NORTH VIETNAM. ALTHOUGH WE SHARE THE DISTASTE, WE CANNOT SHARE THE RATIONALIZATIONS THAT WOULD PERMIT THE DEPARTMENT TO EVADE ITS MORAL RESPONSIBILITIES TO PROVIDE THE WHOLE TRUTH TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. THE MEMORIES OF PONTIUS PILATE WASHING HIS HANDS ARE TOO FRESH IN OUR MINDS THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON.

4. WE NOTE ALSO THAT THE STATEMENT IS ONLY A CURTAIN RAISER TO THE 25-27 JANUARY "NATIONAL ASSEMBLY TO SAVE THE PEACE AGREEMENT" IN WASHINGTON. THIS MEETING IS DESIGNED TO PREEMPT AND OBSCURE THE ATTENTION WHICH WOULD OTHERWISE BE GIVEN ON THE SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF THE PEACE AGREEMENT TO THE VOLUMINOUS AND DETAILED RECORD, NOT ONLY OF HANOI'S MASSIVE, SYSTEMATIC AND DELIBERATE VIOLATIONS OF THAT AGREEMENT, BUT ALSO ITS DETERMINED EFFORT TO DESTROY THE AGREEMENTS ENTIRELY. THE PRELIMINARY REACTIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT INDICATE THAT THEIR EFFORTS MAY SUCCEED, EVEN THOUGH IT IS WELL WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT'S CAPABILITIES NOT ONLY TO THWART SUCH EFFORTS, BUT ALSO TO TURN THE TABLES AND EXPOSE THIS PROPAGANDA EXERCISE FOR WHAT IT REALLY IS---THE CYNICAL MANIPULATION OF THE DECENT INSTINCTS OF

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SAIGON 15787 261124Z

CERTAIN, OBVIOUSLY ILL-INFORMED, AMERICAN RELIGIOUS LEADERS AND THE PROSTITUTION OF THE PRINCIPAL TENETS OF THEIR FAITH IN AN ATTEMPT TO INSURE THE VICTORY OF HANOI.

5. AFTER ALL, THE DEPARTMENT DOES HAVE IN ITS POSSESSION THE ONE DEVASTATING WEAPON--THE ABILITY TO MARSHALL ALL THE PERTINENT FACTS AND PRESENT THE WHOLE TRUTH TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THE DEPARTMENT CAN ESCAPE ITS CLEAR AND PRESENT MORAL

RESPONSIBILITY TO DO EXACTLY THAT.

6. BUT JUST TO ACCEPT THE MORAL RESPONSIBILITY WILL NOT BE ENOUGH.
WE AGAIN SUGGEST THE CREATION OF AN INDEPENDENT TASK FORCE WHICH
CAN CONCENTRATE IN DEPTH AND WITH PRECISION ON THE TASK OF PRO-
VIDING THE WHOLE TRUTH TO THE CONGRESS AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE
ABOUT THE ACTUAL CURRENT REALITIES IN VIET-NAM. DOUGLAS PIKE,
NOW IN S/P AND FRANK WISNER, JR., NOW IN THE "P" AREA ARE TWO
NAMES OF SUPERBLY QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS WHO COULD ASSIST IN
MARSHALLING THE ENORMOUS RESOURCES OF THE DEPARTMENT TO ENABLE
IT TO DISCHARGE ITS RESPONSIBILITIES.
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